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July 23, 2007

These Groups Know What George Bush Doesn't: Covering Kids is a Good Investment.

Dear Democratic Colleague:

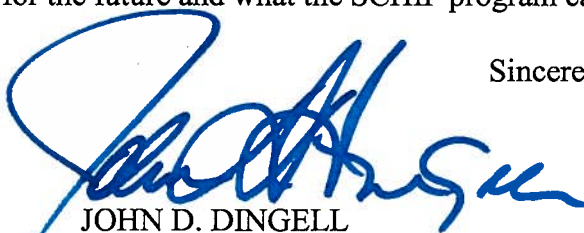
As we undertake reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), don't just listen to what we have to say. Instead, listen to the advocates who understand the critical need for providing health insurance for kids, and who support a timely and adequately-funded reauthorization:

"Covering children's health care needs is a cost-effective use of taxpayer dollars, given the substantial long-term benefits that relatively low-cost children's health care coverage can provide. After all, productive working years and healthy aging both require an early start. . . . We can no longer allow so many children to go without access to proper health care. Our nation has a duty to give all children the best possible start in life. Failure to address children's health needs unwisely raises the risk of increasing health care costs and developing future generations of less healthy elderly."

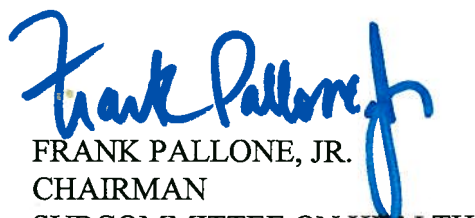
-- American Academy of Pediatrics, National Association of Children's Hospitals, March of Dimes, and AARP

Reauthorizing SCHIP is not part of a left wing conspiracy, as President Bush might have us believe. It is quite simply the right thing to do. We urge you to consider the importance of covering children for the future and what the SCHIP program can offer to millions of children.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH